(b) whether it is a fact that the funds allocated to NGOs have not been utilised in the State:

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) As per information received from Council for Advacement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), the grants provided to the NGOs in Assam during the last three years is about Rs. 193 lakhs.

(b) to (d) The NGOs have utilised about 63% of the amount released during the last three years. The remaining amount is in the process of utilisation by the Voluntary Organisations as the projects are at various stages of implementation.

Incentive Schemes for Textile Industry

†*346. SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL:

SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of incentive schemes for development and expansion of textile industry in the country had been implemented by Government;

(b) if so, the names of schemes decided to be implemented during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(c) the names and details of schemes, out of them, which were implemented for promoting mills, powerloom and handloom industry, separately?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of important schemes implemented for development of textile industry in the country during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) The names and details of some of the important schemes implemented primarily for promoting powerloom, and handloom is given in Statement-II (*See* below). There were no specific programmes during these years for the mill sector. The Government was, however, providing funds to the Textile Research Associations for undertaking research, which also benefit the mill sector. In addition a large network of laboratories through upgradation or setting up of new centres was established for providing testing facilities to the textile units at easy distance. The Government has also launched the Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS) on Ist April 1999 for five years. The Scheme seeks to facilitate the availability of loans from financial Institutions with reimbursement of 5 percentage points on interest by Government. Any textile unit,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

which is eligible as per the lending norms of the concerned Financial Institutions and fulfils the benchmark criteria of the scheme; can avail of funds under the scheme.

Statement-I

S.No.		Name of the Scheme	Implementing Agency
1.	(i)	Workshed-cum Housing Scheme	Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms)
	(ii)	Project Package Scheme	
	(iii)	*Handloom Development Centres/Quality Dyening Units	
	(iv)	Group Insurance Scheme	
	(v)	New Insurance Scheme	
	(vi)	Health Package Scheme	
	(vii)	Thrift Fund Scheme	
	(viii)	Marketing Development Assistance	
	(ix)	*Janata Cloth Scheme	
	(x)	Mill Gate Price Scheme	
	(xi)	Development of Exportable products and their marketing	
	(xii)	Publicity and Exhibition	
2.	(i)	Powerloom Service Centre	Office of Textile Commissioner, Mumbai/Textile Research Association/State Government Agencies.
	(ii)	Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers	
	(iii)	Computer Aided Design Centre	
3.	(i)	Project for Development of Sericulture in Eastern U.P. (Poorvachal Project)	Central Silk Board, Bangalore
	(ii)	Action Plan for Sericulture Development in N.E. States	
	(iii)	Catalytic Development Programmes	
4.	(i)	Integrated sheep and Wool Development Project	Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur
	(ii)	Area Based Project for Wool and Woolens Development	
	(iii)	Industrial Service Centres	
	(iv)	Wool Testing Centres	
	(v)	Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project	
	(vi)	Machine shearing cum shearing project.	
	(vii)	Weaving and Design Training Centre	
	(viii)	Woollen Expo	
	(ix)	Carpet Weaving Training Centres**	
	(x)	Wool Scouring Plant	
5.	(i)	Scheme for upgradation and establishment of new laboratories	Textile Committee, Mumbai.

* Schemes operated upto 31st March, 1998.

** Scheme was operated upto 31st March, 1997.

Statement-II

Handloom Sector:

(i) Workshed-cum-housing Scheme for Handloom Weavers: This is a production-cum-welfare oriented scheme and it was introduced in 1985-86 with the objective of providing a dwelling unit and a suitable workplace to weavers to improve their productivity and earnings. The scheme is being implemented by the respective State Handloom Corporations, primary societies or other specialized agencies nominated by the Government.

(ii) Project Package Scheme (PPS) for Handloom Weavers: The PPS aims to provide infrastructural support for increasing production, productivity and marketing of handloom products, protect traditional ethnic and languishing crafts and adopt an area development approach for development of handlooms in hilly and sparsely populated areas. The scheme is being funded on the basis of equal sharing of contribution by Central and State Government/implementing agency.

(iii) Handloom Development Centres and Quality Dyeing Units: The aim of setting up of HDCs and QDUs is to make necessary arrangements for procurement of hank yarn, preparing production plans keeping in view the market demand and set up marketing outlets.

(iv) Group Insurance Scheme: The Group Insurance Scheme was introduced in 1992-93 in order to meet socio-economic obligation of weavers towards their family and the uncertainty of their working capacity, particularly in old age. Under the scheme a weaver is provided with insurance coverage of Rs. 10,000 for an annual premium of Rs. 120. The premium is shared equally among the beneficiary, Central Government and the State Government.

(v) New Insurance Scheme: A new insurance package scheme for handloom weavers was intrroduced in 1997-98. The new scheme provides for enhanced coverage against various types of risks at the same premium of Rs. 120. However, the share of the Central Government has been increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 per annum and the share of weavers has been reduced from Rs. 40 to Rs. 20 per annum.

(vi) Health Package Scheme: The Health Package Scheme was introduced in 1992-93 with the objective of ameliorating some of the health problems related to the profession of handloom weaving. Under the scheme the weavers are provided fiancial assistance for treatment of diseases like asthama, TB, etc. and for meeting the cost of testing of eyes and spectacles, supply of drinking water, maternity problems.

(vii) Thrift Fund Scheme: The Thrift Fund Scheme was introduced in 1985-86 as a welfare scheme for handloom weavers and it was modified in the year 1991-92. The scheme aims at creation of a fund in the nature of provident fund with 8% of wages

earned as contribution from the weaver and 4% of the wages each from Central Government and the State Governments. The fund earns saving bank interest rate.

(viii) Market Development Assistance: The Market Development Assistance Scheme provides marketing assistance to the handloom sector. This is in lieu of Share Capital Assistance Scheme to Apex Societies and Corporations, Share capital and managerial subsidy to Primary Societies and Special Rebate Scheme. Apart from providing assistance to State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies, it also envisages providing assistance to national level handloom organisations viz., All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Societies Ltd., Delhi; North Eastern handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation, Guwahati; Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, New Delhi, etc. The MDA assistance to the state organisation is shared equally by the respective State Governments and Central Government.

(ix) Janata Cloth Scheme: This scheme was launched in 1976 and continued after 1993 till 1997-98 with modifications. The aim of the revised scheme (1993) was (1) to provide sustained income to handloom weavers particularly, the semi-skilled weavers by partially off-setting the cost disadvantage of handloom sector; (2) to enable handloom weavers graduate to production of higher value textile goods so as to earn higher wages; and (3) to provide alternate employment to handloom weavers displaced on account of phasing out of Janata Cloth Scheme.

(x) Mill Gate Price Scheme: The Mill Gate Price Scheme is operated through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) and is meant for supply of hank yarn to handloom weavers at mill gate prices. In order to help marketing of handloom textiles by various agencies and to make available handloom items under one roof in various townships having potential for marketing of handloom items, the concept of group merchandizing in the form of marketing complexes has been designed and National Handloom Development Corporation has been entrusted with the task of implementation of the concept.

(xi) Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing: In order to give substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabric, made-ups and other handloom items from the country, Scheme for Development of Exportable Products and their marketing has been introduced during 1996-97. Under the Scheme, assistance is available for developing exportable products, for building up of production capability for export and thereafter marketing it.

The project cost in respect of the agencies sponsored by the State Government is shared by the State Government itself or by the beneficiary agency. The agencies sponsored by Central Government are entitled to 100% assistance from the Government of India under the Scheme.

(xii) Publicity and Exhibition: To provide marketing support to handloom agencies and the individual weavers, the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms

organizes the National Handloom Expos, District Level Events, Craft Melas, etc. in different parts of the country. For this purpose, the financial support is provided to the implementing agency towards infrastructure, publicity, etc. These activities are supportive to the handloom agencies, weavers and also to the consumer as it provides them an opportunity to purchase the handloom products of various states under one roof.

Powerloom Sector:

(a) **Powerloom Service Centre (PSC):** Under this scheme Powerloom Service Centres have been established at important locations. These Centres are responsible not only for imparting training to powerloom weavers but also for creating new designs and providing testing facilities. Till date 43 PSCs have been set up.

(b) **Powerloom Workers' Insurance Scheme:** The Government of India introduced a Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom workers in association with the Life Insurance Corporation of India during the year 1992-93. All Powerloom workers of age between 18 and 60 years and those who work during the year are eligible for insurance under this Scheme. A weaver, who had earned at least minimum average pay of Rs. 700 per month during a year, can join the Scheme. The Scheme envisages an annual premium to be shared equally by the Central Government, the State Government and the Powerloom worker.

(c) **Computer Aided Design Centres:** For providing facilities for design development and product diversification for the powerloom sector, Computer Aided Design Centres are being set up at important powerloom centres.

Research & Development

The Government has taken up a programme for providing facilities to meet the testing needs of the country. Under this programme existing laboratories are being upgraded and wherever required new laboratories are being established. The prime objective is to provide testing facilities at easy distance to the textile industry.

Entrepreneurship Assistance for rural women under UNDP

*347. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed that Hyderabad would be covered under the Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development Programme, taken up for rural women under UNDP; and